

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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TO : Operations Staff, OCD
 Thru : Chief Analysis Branch, Library
 FROM : Training Officer

DATE: 14 January 1952

SUBJECT: Alcott Hall Lectures

I have obtained comments from each of the analysts of this branch who attended certain of the lectures given at Alcott Hall. Analysts had been assigned to attend the lectures because we had felt a need for some form of substantive training which would increase their efficiency and capabilities. Rather than establish a series of special lectures, it was decided to take advantage of existing lectures designed to serve other purposes. The comments received were directed toward three categories of evaluation: (1) general interest, (2) morale value, and (3) aid in current work.

In general, the response was favorable with respect to general interest and morale value and relatively neutral or unfavorable as an aid in current work. For some of those who had not received any form of Agency orientation, lectures pertaining to certain offices of the Agency were of interest and even considered of value as some indication of requirements. It was the substantive lectures, however, that seemed to have the more positive values. Of the latter type more specific comments are given below.

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Geography and National Security. This lecture was considered rather uninteresting and of little value. The subject was treated in a sketchy and unorganized manner with little or no relation to intelligence.

(ORR) 25X1A9a

Population and National Power. The speaker was stimulating as a personality, but the lecture was relatively uninformative and even uninteresting.

(SD)

Industrial Potential of U.S.S.R. The lecture was of general interest and provided a broad frame of reference in contrast to the very specific daily one. It thus had morale value although it would not be an aid in current work.

A9a

(ORR)

Scientific Potential of U.S.S.R. The lecture was very disappointing and the speaker uninspiring. The subject was treated in too general and elementary a manner with no evaluation of Soviet capabilities or deficiencies.

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Theory and Practice of Communism. These lectures were interesting,

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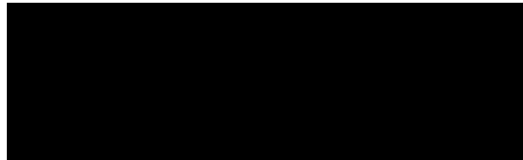
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informative, and well presented. They would be an aid in current work, at least as background material. 25X1A9a

Intelligence Support for Foreign Policy. The speaker was very stimulating. The value of this lecture is for morale purposes.  (SD)

Evaluation of Intelligence. The speaker was stimulating and reflected his broad knowledge and experience of intelligence as a process and an instrument of national policy. While of no value in current work, the lecture had morale value. *Sherman Kent*

From the foregoing it would seem that this series of lectures did not meet the needs of this branch for substantive training, which, of course, it was not designed to do. It did have morale value, but it would not be worth the time taken from current duties more often than about once a year.



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